

## Rules of the Montana Legislature

### Motions Study Guide

- Seconds are not required for motions
- Non-debatable motions:
  - Table
  - Reconsider actions
  - Adjourn
- Substitute motions:
  - Only *one substitute* motion to the original motion *at a time*.
  - *Adequate discussion* to be allowed before voting on each motion.
  - If a *substitute* motion is offered, the *substitute motion is voted on* prior to the original motion.
  - If the *substitute* motion *fails*, then the *original* motion is *considered*.
  - If the original motion and the substitute motion are *opposing motions*, chair may announce that without objection, the *vote* on the substitute motion will be *reversed* and recorded as the vote on the original motion.
- Terminology:
  - Bill from your chamber: "Pass", "Pass as amended".
  - Discourage votes stated in the negative like "Do not pass", "Do not pass as amended".
  - Bill from the other chamber: "Be concurred in", "Be concurred in as amended".
  - Discourage votes stated in the negative.

## Motions in Committee

Proper motions in committee include:

- a. To amend: this motion is to propose to change the bill in a specified manner.
- b. Do pass: a bill is recommended to be placed on second reading before the House as received  
by the committee.
- c. Do pass as amended: a bill is recommended to be placed on second reading with amendments adopted by the committee engrossed into the second reading copy.
- d. To table: a motion to set aside consideration of a bill. The bill remains in committee and is not reported to the House. This motion is nondebatable and is often used to effectively dispose of a bill without requiring consideration by the House.
- e. To take from the table: a motion to resume consideration of a bill set aside previously.
- f. Postpone action: consideration of the bill is delayed, often to a date certain.
- g. Reconsider action: a motion to bring up a bill previously voted on *but that has not yet been reported from the committee*. The motion to reconsider action is usually made for the purpose of attempting to change a prior committee vote or to allow reconsideration of adopted or defeated amendments.
- h. Be concurred in: the bill received from the other chamber is recommended to be placed on second reading in the form received by the committee.
- i. Be concurred in as amended: the bill received from the other house is recommended to be placed on second reading with amendments adopted by the committee engrossed into the second reading copy.

Other motions that are **allowed** but will use the House's time and use resources for bills that are not approved:

- a. do **not** pass;
- b. do **not** pass as amended;
- c. be **not** concurred in (bill from other house); and
- d. be **not** concurred in as amended (bill from other house).

**H50-90. Nondebatable motions.** (1) A representative has the right to understand any question before the House and, usually under the administration of the presiding officer, may ask questions to exercise this right.

(2) The following motions are not debatable:

- (a) to adjourn;
- (b) for a call of the House;
- (c) to recess or rise;
- (d) for parliamentary inquiry;
- (e) to table or take from the table; for suspension of the rules;
- (f) to call for the previous question or cloture;
- (g) to amend a nondebatable motion;
- (h) to divide a question;
- (i) to suspend the rules;
- (j) all incidental motions, such as motions relating to voting or of a general procedural nature;
- (k) to appeal a call of order.